News release

Forecasters on alert for hot weather

16 June 2005

Summer looks set to kick off its shoes this weekend as Met Office forecasters predict high temperatures and plenty of sunshine for large areas of the UK.

The heat will build through the weekend, with highs up to 32 °C (90 °F) likely in some parts of central, eastern and south-east England on Sunday. Overnight temperatures will remain high. This, combined with humid air and light winds, will make it uncomfortable for many. Most areas will see lots of sunshine developing as early cloud breaks up. Beware though, the high temperatures may trigger the odd thundery downpour, especially on Sunday.

As usual with the British weather, there are some flies in the ointment; as well as the risk of thundery showers, some southern and western coasts could be very misty at times.

With soaring temperatures, concerns also rise for people's well-being; the sun is at its strongest at this time of year and sunburn is a real hazard. In addition, several health conditions are adversely affected by very high temperatures. The Met Office works closely with the Department of Health through the Heat-Health Watch, where forecasters issue warnings that health professionals use to minimise the risks to public health, particularly of the elderly. The Met Office has advised the Department of Health and the NHS of the increased risk of temperature thresholds being reached this weekend.

Longer-term prospects for the first week of Wimbledon look very promising. The temperature will ease back a little after the weekend and, despite the risk of a few showers on Monday, the weather should pose few problems for the start of the tournament.

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Heat-Health Watch

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